

Fik GAO

1 May STAT

MATTERS PROPOSED FOR DISCUSSION
WITH [REDACTED]

Discussion on the following matters will assist GAO in its planning and performance of at least two current assignments. One, just beginning, is related to the very subject of [REDACTED] report; how we acquire systems in comparison to other countries. The other assignment, underway for some time, is being done for the Senate Governmental Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management on the capabilities of defense personnel involved in the weapons acquisition process. STAT

1. How recent is the information, when was data for the study collected, and how long did it take to gather the information and write the report?

2. What is the source for the comparative information which is not footnoted (i.e., the information on all the foreign countries except the Soviet Union)?

3. Are there more details or a reference citation available on the SRI survey of industrial and government managers which found contractors reporting unclear authority definitions as problematic (p. 67 of text)?

4. What kind of informal, unofficial comments were received and from whom were comments sought? In other words, what type of review-- collegial or otherwise-- has the document had?

5. What are the publication plans? Is the document likely to enter the public domain? If so, in what form (monograph, journal article, book chapter) and when?

6. How are certain issues cited as problems with the U.S. funding stability dealt with in other countries?

a) How do they assign responsibility for funding decisions when a threat is identified?

b) Why do similar defense budgets in foreign countries imply less competition among services for available funds? Why don't smaller budgets result in more significant cost underestimates in those countries?

7. What data are available on the size and talents of the staff required to manage the acquisition and logistics process in each country?

8. What further detail is available on the makeup of the separate bodies in France and elsewhere which deal directly with industry on systems development/procurement issues?

4/30/84

STAT

Sorry this took so long. Please
re-make our request to
talk w/ [REDACTED]. Hope
we get good results this time.
Let me know ASAP. Thanks

STAT

Frank Cegran